

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - MIDEAST DIPLOMACY & REOPENING OF CANAL

1. SUMMARY. ON HEELS OF REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL, ONE INDEPENDENT AND SEVERAL LEFTIST PAPERS DEVOTE COMMENT TO MIDEAST CRISIS AND DIPLOMACY. PRO-SOVIET CP ORGAN "AN-NIDA" AND PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" BOTH DESCRIBE REOPENING OF CANAL AS ANOTHER STEP IN DIRECTION OF PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS AND ATTACK PRESIDENT SADAT FOR 'ABANDONING' ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CAUSES. "AS-SAFIR" GOES ON TO LINK RESUMPTION OF "STEP-BY-STEP" DIPLOMACY TO "IMPERIALIST" ATTEMPTS TO USE LEBANESE PHALANGE PARTY TO DIVERT PALESTINIANS FROM EFFECTIVELY OPPOSING ITS RESUMPTION. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT", FOR ITS PART, WHILE ACCEPTING REOPENING OF CANAL AS USEFUL MOVE IN DISCUSSION OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, REJECTS NOTION THAT IS "CONSECRATION OF VICTORIES OF OCTOBER WAR", WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE IT BELITTLES. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" ALSO WEIGHS IN WITH SECOND EDITORIAL ATTACKING U.S. POLICY IN MIDEAST AND IN LEBANON. INDEPENDENT 'L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" BEMOANS LEBANON'S FATE AS SURROGATE FRONT FOR ARAB REJECTIONISTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA" WRITES: "MANY ARAB NATIONALIST CIRCLES HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO OPEN CANAL AND HAVE TAKEN IT AS ... INDICATION OF READINESS ... TO IMPLEMENT PRACTICAL STEPS PROPOSED IN FRAMEWORK OF KISSINGER'S EFFORTS AND PLANS TO PUSH THROUGH PARTIAL STEPS AND ISOLATED SETTLEMENTS. OPENING OF CANAL COMES ... FEW DAYS AFTER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT -- MEETING OF PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT IN SALZBURG.... IT HAS BECOME CLEAR FROM WHAT IS BEGINNING TO GO AROUND IN INFORMED ARAB CIRCLES ... THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO MOVE AGAIN TOWARDS ISOLATED PARTIAL SETTLEMENT AT EXPENSE OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND SYRIA, INDEED AT EXPENSE OF ENTIRE ARAB CAUSE AND OF EGYPT ITSELF."

3. COLUMNIST JOSEPH SAMAHA WRITES IN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR": "HARBINERS OF RETURN TO PARTIAL SOLUTIONS ... HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR ON ARAB HORIZON. OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL ON HEELS OF SALZBURG SUMMIT CONFIRMS THAT BETTING ON AMERICA WILL CONTINUE.... WHAT HAPPENED IN SALZBURG IS RETURN TO OLD TUNE OF PARTIAL SOLUTIONS AGAINST WHICH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE HAS BEEN WARNING.... THIS TIME, VOICE OF RESISTANCE HAS NOT BEEN RAISED AGAINST BETTING ON AMERICA AND REVIVING ISOLATED SETTLEMENT PLANS. THIS IS BECAUSE RESISTANCE HAS COMMITTED ALL ITS POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH TO WARDING OFF ATTACK THAT PHALANGE PARTY -- INSPIRED BY IMPERIALIST CIRCLES -- HAS LAUNCHED IN ATTEMPT TO STRIKE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION ... AND PREVENT IT FROM PARTICIPATING EFFECTIVELY IN COURSE OF ARAB-ISRAELI STRUGGLE."

4. COLUMNIST LU'AYY 'ABDALLAH WRITES IN PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT": "WHERE ARE SIGNS OF VICTORY THAT HAS TURNED PAGE OF 1967 DEFEAT? ISRAELI FORCES STILL OCCUPY ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING SINAI.... PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT STEPS ... HAVE NOT ALTERED AMERICAN POSITION.... SIGNS OF DEFEAT PERSIST IN SPITE OF INFLATION AND EXAGGERATION OF 'VICTORIES' OF OCTOBER WAR.... OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL IS NOT THE GREAT EVENT THAT SOME INFORMATION MEDIA HAVE TRIED TO PAINT AS A CONSECRATION OF VICTORY ARABS ACHIEVED IN OCTOBER WAR.... IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN HARBINGER OF GOOD INTENTIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSION OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA IF IT IS TRULY REASSESSING ITS POLICY. LET US AWAIT RESULTS OF THIS REASSESSMENT."

5. COLUMNIST MUHAMMAD MASHMUSHI WRITES IN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR": "ARABS HAVE NEVER NEEDED AMERICAN DIPLOMATS LIKE DANIEL MOYNIHAN OR MALCOLM TOON ... TO GIVE THEM NEW HISTORY LESSONS ON AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL OR

AMERICAN 'COMMITMENT' TO PEACE.... IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT FORD'S PROMISE TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL COINCIDED WITH ANOTHER PROMISE TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL COINCIDED WITH ANOTHER PROMISE FROM FORD HIMSELF TO COMMIT NEW AGGRESSION ON LEBANON* ON WAY TO SALZBURG, WHERE FORD MADE FIRST PROMISE, KISSINGER CONFIRMED SECOND PROMISE BY SPEAKING OF 'CIVIL WAR LIKELY IN LEBANON' WITHOUT PLAYING OLD TUNE ABOUT 'AMERICAN CONCERN' FOR INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON.... IN MIDST OF THIS GAME, SOME ARABS KEEP TO STRATEGY OF SETTING UP 'IDOS', WAITING FOR 'PROMISES', AND WHISTLING AND APPLAUDING."

6. EDOUARD SAAB, CHIEF EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH-LANGUAGE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR", WRITES: "EVERYTHING IS TAKING PLACE AS IF WAR IN LEBANON WERE CONDITION FOR PEACE IN REST OF ARAB WORLD.... ONE CAN STILL FIND TRACES OF FAMOUS 'REJECTIONIST FRONT', BUT IN BEIRUT, NOT ON ISRAELI FRONT. ARAB REGIMES ARE HAPPILY ACCOMODATING THEMSELVES TO NEW ARAB-ISRAELI CONJUNCTION WITHOUT BEING CRITICIZED BY LEFTIST RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS OR INTIMIDATED BY ALARUMS OF REJECTIONIST FRONT. THESE HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO IN LEBANON TO LEND THEMSELVES TO WHAT HAS BECOME A 'DIVERSIONARY MANEUVER', A 'MARGINAL STRUGGLE'. WE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT TO BURY PALESTINE ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY -- LEBANON -- HAD TO BE DESTROYED. MAY HISTORY FORGIVE PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE; THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

GODLEY

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